P.S. to Mr. Shea, 3/17/78

Also in today's mail is the copy Jim Lesar sent of your letter of 3/13 forwarding Ms. Walster's 3/7/78. The copy you sent me has not come so Jim sent me a copy.

We appreciate this effort.

And cannot understand how the FBI has no record.

One day in the earlier period of our farming at Hyattstown, when I was either carrying a basket of eggs to the house or working along the road, an FBI car stopped. The agent spoke to me along the road. He was looking for my wife. She was then still working in Washington and commuting. I told him when she would be home and where to reach her in Washington. He said they would see her in Washington. Later she told me that they had.

The reason they looked her up is that she had worked for the Senate Munitions Committee (Nye committee) and thus was a fellow employee of Hiss.

Although from my extensive reading of FBI reports I would be inclined to expect a mention of the agent's having stopped at the farm and spoken to me I am aware that this need not have been the case. However, I cannot believe that there was no report of the interview with my wife or any reference made to it.

I have not followed the Hiss FOIA/PA matter closely so I do not know the source of the records provided to them. I presume it would include both Baltimore and Washington Field Offices as well as FBIHQ. The agentx should have been from one of these.

I am reminded of more of that early period, earlier than this one. This also relates to the PA request and the Mayne case.

An agent from the southwest, New Mexico or Arizona, was conducting a security check on Mayne, who despite the felony conviction was emppoyed at or being considered for employment at an atomic instalation. This agent interviewed me when we lived in Arlington, Va. I don't think he travelled that distance not to file a report. I believe he drove because I think I recall that license on his car.

Aside: Mayne was not only a confessed and convicted felon. If you examine the list of my requests there is an item about a plot to overthrown the government. A for-real one. Mayne was in on it. I obtained the records from him. Does it tell you something of the time and the prevalent official mind when despite this I was asked if I regarded him as a "security" risk?